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Tuesday
DECEMBER 20, 2016

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A Chicago Tribune
publication

The biggest
sports stories
of 2016 **8**

You voted, now
meet the Stud
of the Year **10**

Following up
on our athlete
predictions **12**

YEAR IN REVIEW
SPORTS



BY SAMANTHA NELSON FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@REDEYECHICAGO.COM » GET MORE SPONTANEOUS EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYECHICAGO.COM



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hello

Kyle Hendricks

Oh, he's been around for three seasons now, but until this year he hasn't been a Cy Young candidate. You best believe the Cubs are counting on him to help bring home the Cubs' first back-to-back World Series titles since 1907-08. Yep, we can talk about that now.



No. 1

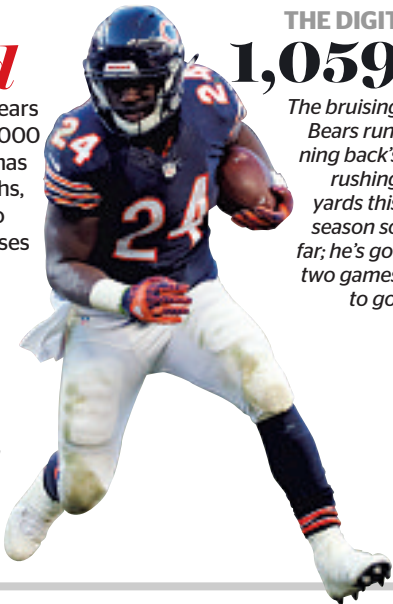
THE DIGIT

2.13

Hendricks' ERA was the best among all starting pitchers in Major League Baseball in 2016.

Jordan Howard

Howard is one of five Bears rookies ever to reach 1,000 yards rushing. He also has a cool nickname, #Thighs, born out of his ability to punish opposing defenses from start to finish.



THE DIGIT

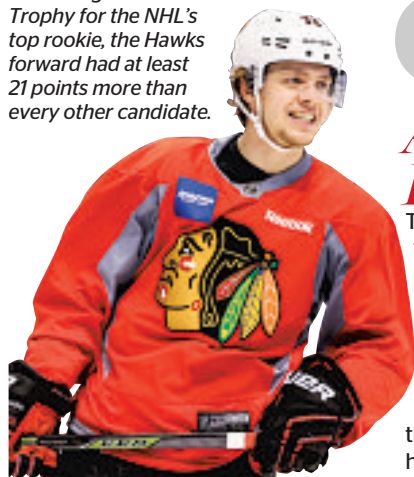
1,059

The bruising Bears running back's rushing yards this season so far; he's got two games to go.

No. 2

THE DIGIT
21

In winning the Calder Trophy for the NHL's top rookie, the Hawks forward had at least 21 points more than every other candidate.



No. 3

Artemi Panarin

There's no greater pure scorer in the NHL than Patrick Kane right now, but "Breadman" is only a few shades behind. The 25-year-old (30 goals, 47 assists in 2015-16 for 77 points) has a wicked shot and is super sneaky when handling the puck. Now, if only the Hawks find a way to re-sign him at the end of this season.

Cubs



everything

2016 wasn't always in a giving mood, but when it was ...

By Chris Sosa | REDEYE

Where would Chicago fans be without the Cubs in 2016? Fortunately, that is not a question anyone has to answer. They don't have to dwell on the Blackhawks, Sky and Red Stars reaching the playoffs but bowing out short of a title. Or on the Bulls, Bears and White Sox doing a collective face-plant. Or the fact that no Illinois men's team qualified for March Madness. With a thrilling World Series run that will sustain the city for decades if not centuries, 2016 will go down as truly legendary.

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GETTY IMAGES, EPA, CHICAGO TRIBUNE FILE PHOTOS

THE QUOTE

"At the end of the day, the things I remember the most are good memories from everybody. I have no hard feelings towards anybody."

Joakim Noah

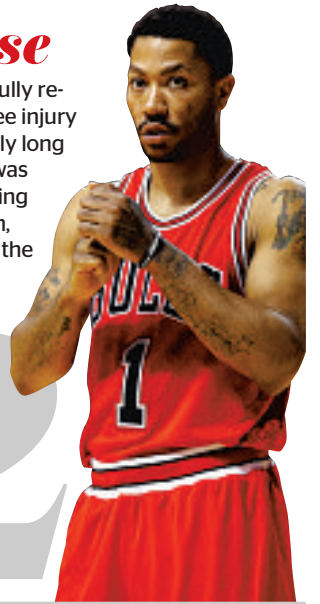
on the Bulls deciding not to re-sign him



No. 3

Derrick Rose

His status with some fans never fully recovered from his devastating knee injury in 2012, specifically the abnormally long rehab he required. But when he was right, man, his game was something to behold. He's still Chicago's own, too, and deserves applause from the United Center faithful no matter what uniform he's wearing.



THE DIGIT

1

The number of MVP awards Rose won while with the Bulls.

No. 2

THE QUOTE

"Nose is bleeding. My wife's stuffing things up my nose. I'm like, 'You're not ruining my day?... It was a blast, man.'"

—Ross, to Ellen DeGeneres, on getting hit with a metal rod during the Cubs' victory parade

David Ross

"Grandpa Rossy," as he will forever be known, played for the Cubs for only two years, but he was treated like a 20-year fixture.



No. 1

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year in review » **chatter**

5 transit topics that got readers' blood pumping



TRANSIT DIARIES

Rianne Coale

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If there is one thing you can count on to be consistent(ly awful) year in and year out, it's Chicago transportation.

For example, you know your rush-hour train will always be packed. Uber and Lyft will start charging a surge at the exact moment you need a ride. When you're late for

work, three buses will come all at once and then none for 30 minutes. And every mode of transportation you take will come with its own blend of inconsiderate ass-hats. Aren't we lucky?

So with the year drawing to a close, it seems only right to revisit the Top 5 most popular, polarizing and talked-about Transit Diaries topics of 2016, according to RedEye readership.

1. Masturbation on public transit

It's the kind of topic nobody wants to talk about but EVERYBODY wants to read about. You see "masturbator," "masturbation" or "masturbate" in a headline and somehow you can't keep your eyes from "glancing" at the rest of the article. You're not fooling anyone, and we all fall into the trap.

2. Lyft driver picks fight with another driver

In our own weird way, we love to read about incidents like this. You want to know how the fight went down. Were there weapons used? Blood, gore, black eyes? It seems like such an unlikely scenario, and you can't fight off your own curiosity to find out what happened.

3. Fabric seating on the CTA

When it comes to fabric on the CTA's railcar and bus seats, some people love it, some people hate it. Actually, most people hate it. So



PHIL VELASQUEZ/
TRIBUNE FILE

you want to read about how much everyone else hates it because of how much YOU hate fabric seating. And then we all end up banding together in mutual hatred and sympathy for anyone who's ever sat in a substance hidden within the cloth of a CTA seat.

4. Divvy don'ts

Because it's crystal clear many Chicagoans and tourists don't know how to ride a bicycle in the city. You may have been scared you were committing some of these Divvy don'ts (which you probably were), so you wanted to cross-reference it with your own roadside manners. Or you're a hard-core cyclist who wanted to pick apart the article to extreme specifics, which also happened.

5. Commuters wearing backpacks

It's one of those things that can get under the skin of almost everyone who witnesses it. But there is a stark divide between backpack wearers and backpack haters. You either keep your bulky backpack resting atop your shoulders while in a cramped bus or railcar, or you can't understand what kind of nincompoops wouldn't just take their backpacks off and rest them at their feet. You can probably guess which side I'm on.

THE TRANSIT DIARIES RUNS IN REDEYE'S PRINT EDITION

EVERY TUESDAY ON PAGE 4. IF YOU HAVE A STORY YOU'D

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Despite protests, Trump wins Electoral College vote

Associated Press

There were many protesters but few faithless electors as Donald Trump won the Electoral College vote Monday—ensuring that the billionaire will become America's 45th president.

An effort by anti-Trump forces to persuade Republican electors to abandon the president-elect came to practically nothing, and the process unfolded largely according to its traditions. Trump's polarizing victory Nov. 8 and the fact that Democrat Hillary Clinton had won the national popular vote had stirred an intense lobbying effort, but to no avail.

Even one of Trump's fiercest Republican rivals, Ohio Gov. John Kasich, said it was time to get behind the president-elect.

"We want unity, we want love," Kasich said as Ohio's electors voted to back Trump at a statehouse ceremony. Kasich refused to endorse or even vote for Trump in the election.

With Hawaii still to vote, Trump had 304 votes and Clinton had 224. It takes 270 Electoral College votes to win the presidency. Texas put Trump over the top, despite two Republican electors casting protest votes.

Befitting an election filled with acrimony, thousands of protesters converged on state capitols across the country Monday, urging Republican electors to abandon their party's winning candidate.

More than 200 demonstrators braved freezing temperatures at Pennsylvania's Capitol, chanting, "No Trump, no KKK, no fascist USA!" and "No treason, no Trump!"

In Madison, Wis., protesters shouted, cried and sang "Silent Night." In Augusta, Maine, they banged on drums and held signs that said, "Don't let Putin Pick Our President," referring to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Despite the noise outside state capitols, inside, the voting went pretty much as planned.

With all Republican states reporting, Trump only lost the two electors in Texas.

Clinton lost four electors in Washington state—three voted for former Secretary of State Colin Powell and one voted for Native American tribal leader Faith Spotted Eagle.

Several Democratic electors in other states tried to vote for protest candidates, but they either changed their votes to Clinton or were replaced.

The Electoral College has 538 members, with the number allocated to each state based on how many representatives it has in the House plus one for each senator. The District of Columbia gets three, despite the fact that the home to Congress has no vote in Congress.

There is no constitutional provision or federal law that requires electors to vote for the candidate who won their state—though some states require their electors to vote for the winning candidate.

Those laws, however, are rarely tested. More than 99 percent of electors through U.S. history have voted for the candidate who won their state. Of those who refused, none has ever been prosecuted, according to the National Archives.

Some Democrats have argued that the Electoral College is undemocratic because it gives more weight to less populated states. That is how Clinton, who got more than 2.8 million more votes nationwide, lost the election to Trump.

Some have also tried to dissuade Trump voters by arguing that he is unsuited to the job. Others cite the CIA's assessment that Russia engaged in computer hacking to sway the election in favor of the Republican.

A joint session of Congress is scheduled for Jan. 6 to certify the results of the Electoral College vote, with Vice President Joe Biden presiding as president of the Senate. Once the result is certified, the winner—almost certainly Trump—will be sworn in on Jan. 20.

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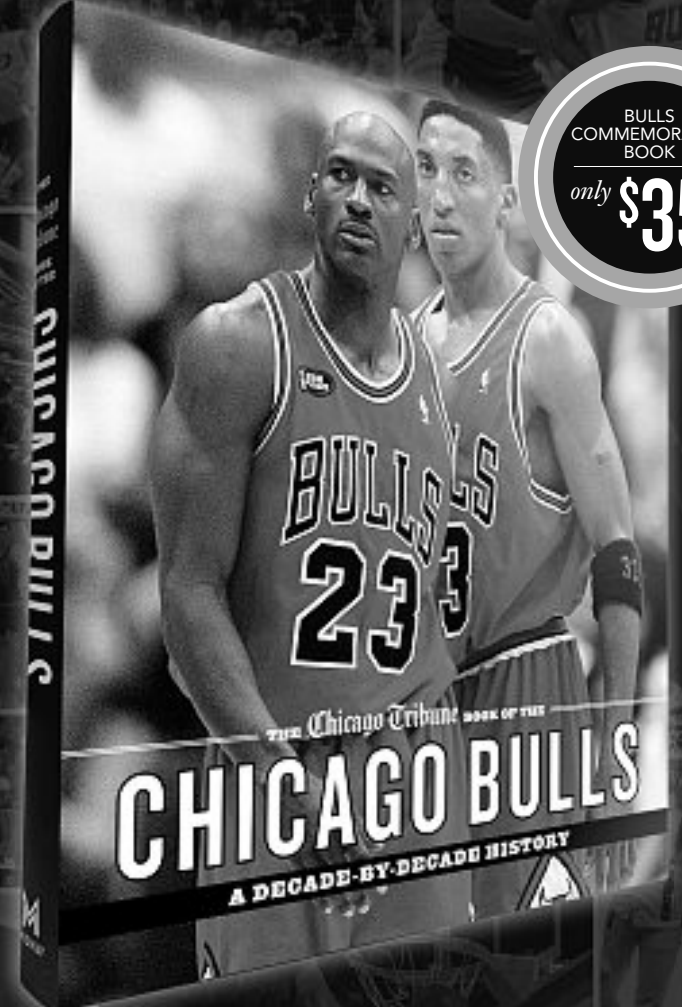
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THE YEAR IN SPORTS

FOR ONCE, EVERYONE'S TRYING TO BE LIKE THE CUBS

By Chris Sosa | REDEYE

When breaking down the year that was in Chicago sports, 2016 will forever be defined as the Year of the Cub.

Sorry, other Chicago teams and athletes, but there's no way around it. From spring training until ... well, we'll let you know when it winds down. The city always fantasized about how spectacular it would be if the Cubs ended their drought of more than a century, and what we're learning is that people never get tired of talking about it.

Which is awesome, especially for someone like catcher David Ross. The recent retiree will drop a memoir in May, which got us thinking about whom we'd like to see follow in his footsteps.

5. JAKE ARRIETA

Here's a pitcher who's obsessed with keeping in shape, who rides a motorized bike and who makes bets that lead to actual tattoos.

"Not ideal. but a bet is a bet," Arrieta tweeted about his new Coastal Carolina ink, paying off a wager he made with teammate Tommy La Stella.

And if someone criticizes him on Twitter (cough, Stephen A. Smith, cough), watch out.

Most anticipated chapter: The one about his photo shoot for ESPN The Magazine's Body Issue. Honorable mention goes to his home run off Madison Bumgarner in the NLDS.

4. JOE MADDON

Any list of this type must include a book by the team's whimsical manager. (And yes, Maddon is about the only coach in pro sports who

can be described as "whimsical.") He's also probably the least likely manager to lean on a ghostwriter.

Most anticipated chapter: Anything about his inner dialogue. Managers' decisions are picked apart incessantly, so we'd be dying to know why he went in this or that direction.

"It's fascinating to me regarding the second-guessing because the only reality I know is that we won," Maddon told the Tribune. "That's the one reality that I do know. We have often times talked about outcome. If you had done something differently, would it have turned out better? But better than winning, I don't know what that is."

Then you have Maddon's charitable efforts, which lead us back to the whimsical part.

"I wanted to infiltrate Red Sox country," Maddon told **Cubs.com**, laughing, about why his efforts expanded to parts of Florida that include the Red Sox's spring training home.

3. MIGUEL MONTERO

There must be something about catchers; they tend not to give a [bleep] what people think, and they speak their mind.

Most anticipated chapter: Take your pick, but we'll start with the one on his RBI single in the 10th inning of Game 7 that increased the Cubs' lead to 8-6.

"You shouldn't load the bases to get to me," Montero told the Tribune.

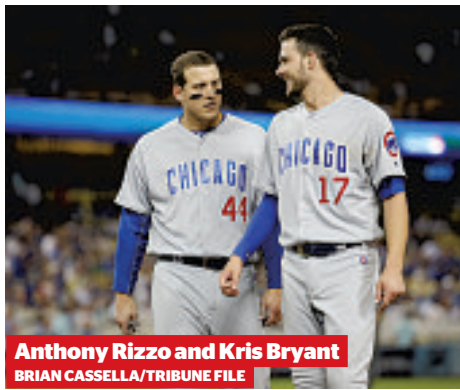
Wow, that's some serious confidence from a career .259 hitter with 120 home runs in 11 seasons—confidence we'd love to read more about.

2. JASON HEYWARD

For a guy who hit only .230 in the regular season and .104 in the postseason, he played a pretty instrumental role in this title run.

Most anticipated chapter: The Speech, obviously. To hear the Cubs tell it, they wouldn't have won Game 7 without Heyward's pep talk during the rain delay.

The Cubs have tiptoed around specifics, however: "I thought he hit the nail on the head," pitcher Jon Les-



Anthony Rizzo and Kris Bryant
BRIAN CASSELLA/TRIBUNE FILE

ter said. "I think that should stay between us."

When the time is right, however, no doubt we'll get the whole virtual transcript, raw language and everything.

"I just had to remind everybody who we are," Heyward said. "... We never worry about wins or losses, we just worry about how we're going to go out there, have fun, compete, be right there for the guys next to us and not take the situation for granted."

1. KRIS BRYANT AND ANTHONY RIZZO

The only thing that could be better than a book written by one World Series champion Cub is a book penned by two of them. "Bryzzo" already has a fake souvenir business, so why not a memoir?

Rizzo's victory over cancer is just the tip of the iceberg. Both players were MVP candidates this season, they're just 24 (Bryant) and 27 (Rizzo) years old and their bromance appears completely genuine.

So does their passion for the game in general, captured perfectly by Rizzo's admission to Ross in the dugout during Game 7.

"I'm an emotional wreck. ... I'm in a glass case of emotion right now."

That's basically how all of Chicago would feel when they pick up this book.

Most anticipated chapter:

The one that covers Bryant's upcoming wedding, where Rizzo will be in the party. We'd quote that more often than "Wedding Crashers."

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Jake Arrieta
CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE FILE

THE TOP 5 CHICAGO SPORTS STORIES OF 2016, NON-CUBS EDITION

Because the Cubs don't get to keep the spotlight to themselves, here are the Top 5 Chicago sports stories from 2016 that have nothing to do with a certain baseball team that won the World Series. —c.s.

1 PATRICK KANE WINS THE HART TROPHY

We won't go so far as to say this was underplayed. That said, the magnitude of his achievement might have gotten a little lost in the shuffle. Not only is he the fifth Blackhawk to capture the award, he's also the first American-born player to win it, and this is an honor that has been handed out since the 1920s. Even without a deep playoff run, the Hawks can hang their hat on a number of awards and milestones, starting with this gem.

2 WHO RUN THE OLYMPICS? CHICAGOANS

It wasn't just about those who brought home medals. While the city should be proud of the Conor Dwyers and the Elena Delle Donne and the Morolake Akinosuns and the Thomas Jaeschkes, the Summer Games, in their purest form, cover so much more ground than that. In an Olympics that will forever be marked by controversy, all the athletes with Chicago ties deserve a round of applause simply for representing their respective nations honorably.

3 WHITE SOX CLEAN HOUSE

Chris Sale: Traded. Adam Eaton: Dealt. Robin Ventura: Gone. U.S. Cellular Field: Now you're Guaranteed Rate Field. Throw in Adam LaRoche's sudden retirement and the 2017 Sox will be barely recognizable. Though if it leads to more than 78 wins, fans of the South Siders will be overjoyed.

4 BULLS SIGN DWYANE WADE

If Wade were five years younger, this would have been the biggest signing in Bulls history. Heck, it might still be, and it doesn't even come with expectations of a title. That scenario just doesn't seem in the cards with LeBron James around. Yet having Wade's leadership in that locker room and in this city in general is a huge win in and of itself.

5 ILLINOIS HIRES LOVIE SMITH

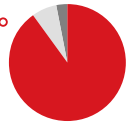
We're venturing well outside the city limits for this one because it's a big deal when the state's flagship university hires its first African-American head football coach. Whether he will ultimately lift the Illini out of the depths of the Big Ten is debatable, but what is not is that the school made a bold move, one that instantly perked up the ears of sports fans across the state.

WE KNOW WHAT YOU WATCHED

What held Chicago sports fans' attention in 2016, month by month.

JANUARY

Cubs 90 percent, Blackhawks 7 percent, Bulls 3 percent. Because Cubs Convention.



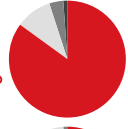
FEBRUARY

Cubs 93 percent, Blackhawks 4 percent, Bulls 3 percent. Because pitchers and catchers report.



MARCH

Cubs 85 percent, College hoops 10 percent, Blackhawks 4 percent, Bulls 1 percent. Because March Madness still rocks.



APRIL

Cubs 89 percent, White Sox 1 percent, Blackhawks 10 percent. Because Stanley Cup Playoffs.



MAY

Cubs 100 percent. Seriously, what else was more interesting?



JUNE

Cubs 100 percent. Because they built an 11-game lead in the NL Central.



JULY

Cubs 100 percent. Because Aroldis Chapman trade.



AUGUST

Cubs 84 percent, Olympics 16 percent. Because even with



#RioProblems, the Olympics are awesome.

SEPTEMBER

Cubs 99.5 percent, Bears .5 percent. Then the Bears lost their first game and disappeared again.



OCTOBER

Cubs 100 percent. Because October baseball.



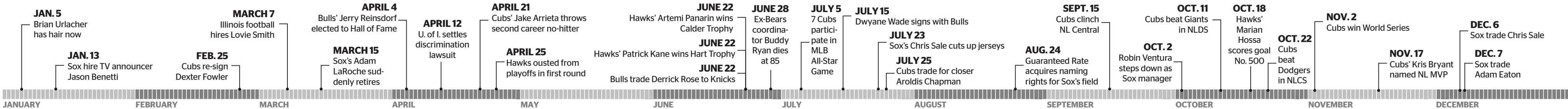
NOVEMBER

Cubs 1,000 percent. Because THE END OF A 108-YEAR-WORLD SERIES DROUGHT.



DECEMBER

Cubs 100 percent. Because they traded for Wade Davis and signed Jon Jay and Koji Uehara, and spring training is only a few months away.





CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE FILE

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"Not ideal. but a bet is a bet," Arrieta tweeted about his new Coastal Carolina ink, paying off a wager he made with teammate Tommy La Stella.

And if someone criticizes him on Twitter (cough, Stephen A. Smith, cough), watch out.

Most anticipated chapter: The one about his photo shoot for ESPN The Magazine's Body Issue. Honorable mention goes to his home run off Madison Bumgarner in the NLDS.

4. JOE MADDON

Any list of this type must include a book by the team's whimsical manager. (And yes, Maddon is about the only coach in pro sports who

can be described as "whimsical.") He's also probably the least likely manager to lean on a ghostwriter.

Most anticipated chapter: Anything about his inner dialogue. Managers' decisions are picked apart incessantly, so we'd be dying to know why he went in this or that direction.

"It's fascinating to me regarding the second-guessing because the only reality I know is that we won," Maddon told the Tribune. "That's the one reality that I do know. We have often times talked about outcome. If you had done something differently, would it have turned out better? But better than winning, I don't know what that is."

Then you have Maddon's charitable efforts, which lead us back to the whimsical part.

"I wanted to infiltrate Red Sox country," Maddon told **Cubs.com**, laughing, about why his efforts expanded to parts of Florida that include the Red Sox's spring training home.

3. MIGUEL MONTERO

There must be something about catchers; they tend not to give a [bleep] what people think, and they speak their mind.

Most anticipated chapter: Take your pick, but we'll start with the one on his RBI single in the 10th inning of Game 7 that increased the Cubs' lead to 8-6.

"You shouldn't load the bases to get to me," Montero told the Tribune.

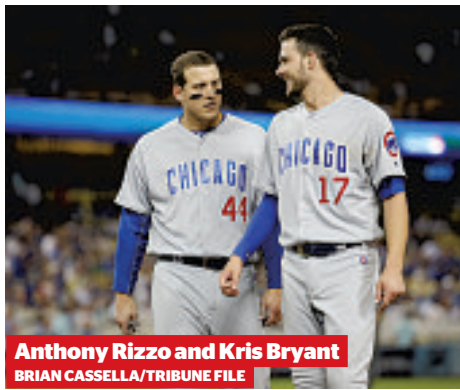
Wow, that's some serious confidence from a career .259 hitter with 120 home runs in 11 seasons—confidence we'd love to read more about.

2. JASON HEYWARD

For a guy who hit only .230 in the regular season and .104 in the postseason, he played a pretty instrumental role in this title run.

Most anticipated chapter: The Speech, obviously. To hear the Cubs tell it, they wouldn't have won Game 7 without Heyward's pep talk during the rain delay.

The Cubs have tiptoed around specifics, however: "I thought he hit the nail on the head," pitcher Jon Les-



Anthony Rizzo and Kris Bryant
BRIAN CASSELLA/TRIBUNE FILE

ter said. "I think that should stay between us."

When the time is right, however, no doubt we'll get the whole virtual transcript, raw language and everything.

"I just had to remind everybody who we are," Heyward said. "... We never worry about wins or losses, we just worry about how we're going to go out there, have fun, compete, be right there for the guys next to us and not take the situation for granted."

1. KRIS BRYANT AND ANTHONY RIZZO

The only thing that could be better than a book written by one World Series champion Cub is a book penned by two of them. "Bryzzo" already has a fake souvenir business, so why not a memoir?

Rizzo's victory over cancer is just the tip of the iceberg. Both players were MVP candidates this season, they're just 24 (Bryant) and 27 (Rizzo) years old and their bromance appears completely genuine.

So does their passion for the game in general, captured perfectly by Rizzo's admission to Ross in the dugout during Game 7.

"I'm an emotional wreck. ... I'm in a glass case of emotion right now."

That's basically how all of Chicago would feel when they pick up this book.

Most anticipated chapter:

The one that covers Bryant's upcoming wedding, where Rizzo will be in the party. We'd quote that more often than "Wedding Crashers."

@REDEYESPORTSCHI
CHSOSA@REDEYECUBS.COM



Jake Arrieta
CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE FILE

THE TOP 5 CHICAGO SPORTS STORIES OF 2016, NON-CUBS EDITION

Because the Cubs don't get to keep the spotlight to themselves, here are the Top 5 Chicago sports stories from 2016 that have nothing to do with a certain baseball team that won the World Series. —c.s.

1 PATRICK KANE WINS THE HART TROPHY

We won't go so far as to say this was underplayed. That said, the magnitude of his achievement might have gotten a little lost in the shuffle. Not only is he the fifth Blackhawk to capture the award, he's also the first American-born player to win it, and this is an honor that has been handed out since the 1920s. Even without a deep playoff run, the Hawks can hang their hat on a number of awards and milestones, starting with this gem.

2 WHO RUN THE OLYMPICS? CHICAGOANS

It wasn't just about those who brought home medals. While the city should be proud of the Conor Dwyers and the Elena Delle Donne and the Morolake Akinosuns and the Thomas Jaeschkes, the Summer Games, in their purest form, cover so much more ground than that. In an Olympics that will forever be marked by controversy, all the athletes with Chicago ties deserve a round of applause simply for representing their respective nations honorably.

3 WHITE SOX CLEAN HOUSE

Chris Sale: Traded. Adam Eaton: Dealt. Robin Ventura: Gone. U.S. Cellular Field: Now you're Guaranteed Rate Field. Throw in Adam LaRoche's sudden retirement and the 2017 Sox will be barely recognizable. Though if it leads to more than 78 wins, fans of the South Siders will be overjoyed.

4 BULLS SIGN DWYANE WADE

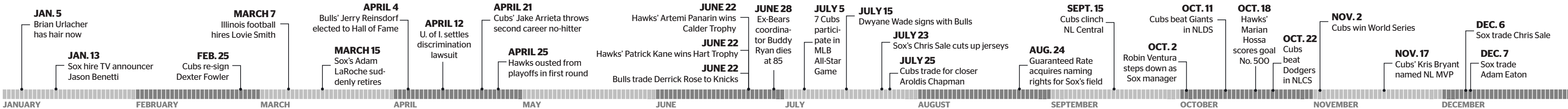
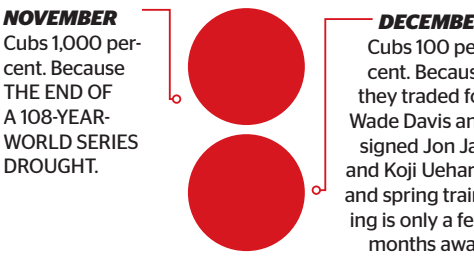
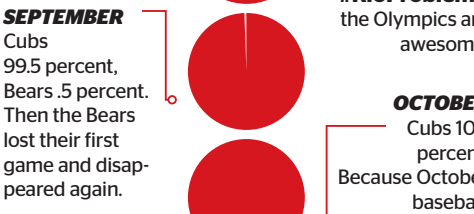
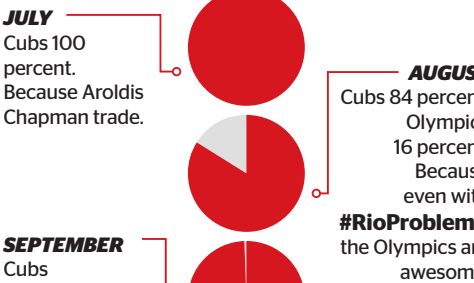
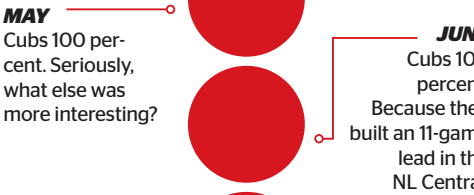
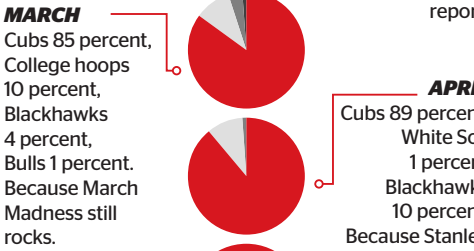
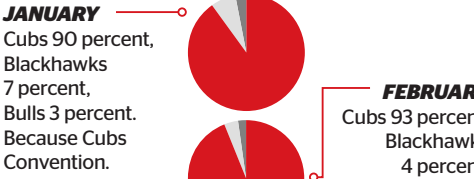
If Wade were five years younger, this would have been the biggest signing in Bulls history. Heck, it might still be, and it doesn't even come with expectations of a title. That scenario just doesn't seem in the cards with LeBron James around. Yet having Wade's leadership in that locker room and in this city in general is a huge win in and of itself.

5 ILLINOIS HIRES LOVIE SMITH

We're venturing well outside the city limits for this one because it's a big deal when the state's flagship university hires its first African-American head football coach. Whether he will ultimately lift the Illini out of the depths of the Big Ten is debatable, but what is not is that the school made a bold move, one that instantly perked up the ears of sports fans across the state.

WE KNOW WHAT YOU WATCHED

What held Chicago sports fans' attention in 2016, month by month.



Christen Press
PATRICK GORSKI
FILE PHOTO FOR
THE TRIBUNE



THE GOAL STANDARD

GOOD LUCK STOPPING THE RED STARS' CHRISTEN PRESS—ON OR OFF THE FIELD

By Chris Sosa | REDEYE

Christen Press was basically unstoppable in 2016.

The Chicago Red Stars captain scored 12 goals for the U.S. national team this year, including a hat trick against Romania in November. The 27-year-old netted another eight goals for her club team in helping it reach the National Women's Soccer League semifinals. Her national profile also spiked a bit when she appeared in ESPN The Magazine's Body Issue.

Her fans definitely noticed all her success, as Press was voted the 2016 Chicago Sports Stud of the Year for her outstanding performance.

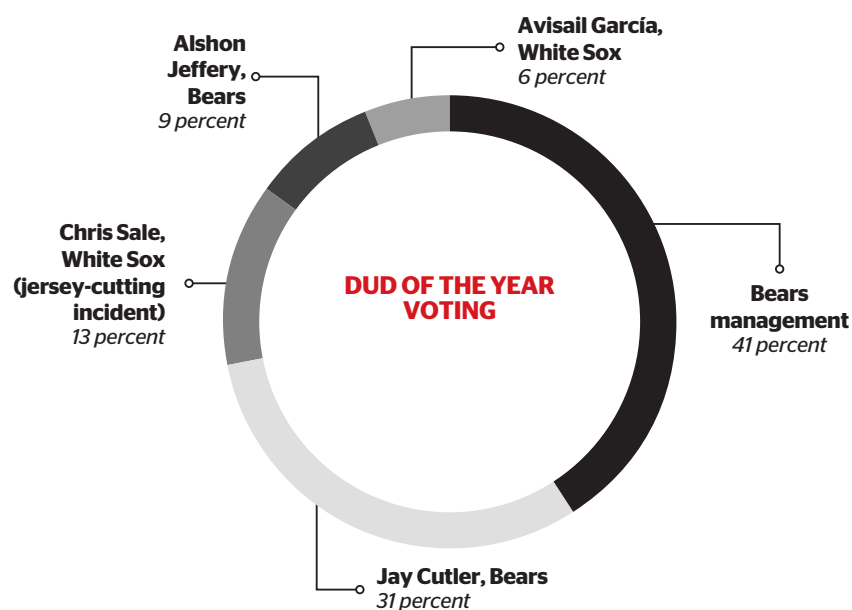
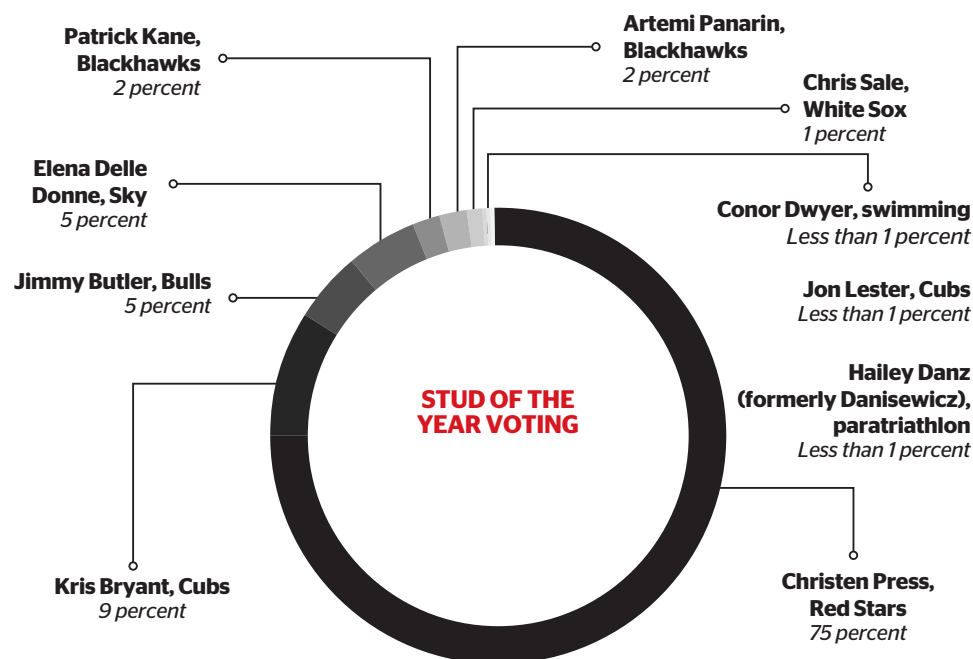
The annual poll of RedEye readers, conducted last week, wasn't even close. Press raked in a whopping 75 percent of the vote; her closest competition was Cubs third base-

man and newly minted National League MVP Kris Bryant. Also in the running were the Blackhawks' Patrick Kane, the NHL's reigning Hart Trophy winner, and seven other athletes in baseball, basketball, hockey, swimming and paratriathlon.

We might have known Press would be a hit in Chicago, as she wears No. 23 for both the Red Stars and the national team. Female athletes now have won Stud of the Year three years running, with the Sky's Allie Quigley winning in 2014 and her teammate Elena Delle Donne capturing it in 2015.

Meanwhile, readers voted Bears management the 2016 Chicago Sports Dud of the year. That's to be expected when the team is headed for a top-five draft pick and will miss the playoffs for the sixth straight season.

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Jay Cutler
CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE

Please, let the countdown to Cutler's exit be ticking



Tim Coffey

» redeye@redeyechicago.com
» [@tqcoff](https://twitter.com/tqcoff)

#CuttyDoesIt

For those who are unfamiliar, that's the cute little hashtag Jay Cutler supporters have used when taking to social media in droves to defend the embattled quarterback throughout his tenure in Chicago.

Because of his injuries, we've been spared from the ral-

lying cry for much of the season. And if the team's front office has any clue, **#Cutty DoesIt** will soon go permanently extinct in this city.

How any of these hashtag-wielding, unrepentant apologists have possibly persisted through the duration of Cutler's Bears career is up there with Stonehenge as one of humankind's great mysteries. It's hard to pinpoint just what they've admired, considering his time in Chicago has amounted to a combination of unjustified hype, wildly inflated compensation, temper tantrums and basically total disappointment. He's essentially the Gordon Ramsay of football.

On one hand, it's not Cutler's fault that former general manager Phil Emery decided it'd be wise to offer more than \$50 million in guaranteed money to a bad decision-maker with a questionable attitude. On the other hand, it IS Cutler's fault that he's a bad decision-maker with a questionable attitude.

But now, with all the guaranteed money

from that awful contract having been paid out, there remains no conceivable justification for current GM Ryan Pace to continue dealing with this mess.

On the field, we've seen all there is to see. The franchise provided more than enough support, resources and benefit of the doubt. In return, Cutler failed again and again. And again. And again. It's safe to say his term in Chicago has included more trust-busting than the Teddy Roosevelt presidency.

How about off the field? Some in the **#CuttyDoesIt** camp claim he would be a great candidate to help develop a quarterback if the Bears were to take one in the first round of the upcoming draft. But Cutler has more technical glitches than a Samsung Galaxy Note7, and asking him to mentor a young QB would be akin to asking a creationist to teach a course on evolution. Not only would he suck at it, he wouldn't even believe in the principles he'd be asked to instill.

Finally, for those delusional enough to think the Bears should hang onto Cutler because he holds trade value, please understand what the rest of the league already knows: No one is going to offer anything of value. Think of a beat-up 1989 Toyota Tercel. Sure, it could be claimed if abandoned on the side of the road. But no other car owner is about to roll down their window and ask you what you want for it.

There's just no sense in hanging onto this clunker anymore. If you couldn't come to terms with it the past eight years, hopefully it's clearer now: **#CuttyDoesn't**, **#CuttyDidn't** and **#CuttyNeverWill**.

TIM COFFEY IS A REDEYE CONTRIBUTOR.



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TIME TO OWN UP

REDEYE'S 2016 BREAKOUT
ATHLETE PREDICTIONS:
WHAT'D WE GET RIGHT?

RedEye

Back in January, RedEye staff and contributors gave you our best guesses as to which Chicago athletes would have a huge 2016. Time to see how we did.

1 ADRIAN AMOS, BEARS

What we said then: His 67 tackles in 2015 were respectable, and next year he'll be expected to grab a handful of interceptions.

VERDICT: MISS

Although the second-year safety has played in 13 of the team's 14 games this season despite suffering from concussion symptoms, he has just 61 tackles. Worse, he has only one fumble recovery and no interceptions.

—CHRIS SOSA

2 ALEX AVILA, WHITE SOX

What we said then: If Avila hits higher than Tyler Flowers' career .223 average and avoids hitting into too many game-ending double plays, Sox fans would consider that a breakout.

VERDICT: MISS

Welp, Avila hit a measly .213 in just 57 games, splitting time behind the plate with teammates Dioner Navarro and Omar Narvaez. Can't get much worse than that.

—CHRIS SOSA

3 TREVOR CAHILL, CUBS

What we said then: You can never have too many reliable bullpen arms, and Cahill's 2015 performance should give manager Joe Maddon peace of mind about his relievers heading into next season.

VERDICT: MISS

Meh. Not a "breakout" year by any stretch of the imagination, but the versatile hurler earned himself a payday from another team with a solid 2016 season. Cahill turned in some quality work out of the bullpen during the regular season, posting a 2.74 ERA in 50 games, including one start.

—MATT LINDNER

4 MARKO DANO, BLACKHAWKS

What we said then: Clearly the team expects brilliance from him, and his time in the minors should do him good.

VERDICT: MISS

The Hawks traded Dano to Winnipeg in February for center Andrew Ladd, so the kid's out of the picture in Chicago. We'd actually score this a hit considering he's putting up decent numbers for the Jets, but that would feel like cheating.

—CHRIS SOSA

5 TODD FRAZIER, WHITE SOX

What we said then: Given the Sox's history in bringing in former National League sluggers, most fans would likely agree that Frazier merely achieving his career norms would be considered a breakout.

VERDICT: HIT

This might be a slight stretch considering he hit just .225, but that's overshadowed by the fact that he led the team with 40 home runs while driving in 98 runs and scoring 89 himself.

—CHRIS SOSA

6 CARSON FULMER, WHITE SOX

What we said then: The 2015 National College Pitcher of the Year is from the same Florida town as Chris Sale. Translation: A right-handed power arm who could help the Sox "sail" away from mediocrity in 2016.

VERDICT: MISS

Make no mistake, Fulmer still could end up as a cornerstone of the Sox pitching staff, especially now that Sale has been traded. He just can't be considered a hit in this sense because he was just 0-2 with an 8.49 ERA in eight major-league games in 2016.

—CHRIS SOSA

7 AVISAIL GARCÍA, WHITE SOX
What we said then: With the arrival of Todd Frazier and Brett Lawrie, the expectations to be a middle-of-the-order impact bat should be off, allowing Garcia to blossom into the player Sox fans believe he can be.

VERDICT: MISS

With a .245 average and just 12 home runs to go with 115 strikeouts, this wasn't the kind of year either he or the fans envisioned, unfortunately.
 —CHRIS SOSA

8 CLAY GUIDA, MMA
What we said then: Guida prides himself on his abnormal pace and precision, and that will be the big focus for him to get back on the win streak he is accustomed to.

VERDICT: MISS

With only one fight this year, which ended in a third-round knockout loss, it was a tough pill to swallow for the former Strikeforce lightweight champion. With no news in sight for a future fight for Guida, it's going to be tough for him to rebound in the lightweight division with Conor McGregor leading the pack.

—TED GRUBER

9 TYRONE HENDERSON, MMA
What we said then: If he continues to dominate Road FC in South Korea, the UFC could look to bring him into its featherweight division.

VERDICT: MISS

2016 hasn't been friendly for Henderson, as he lost both his fights via TKO. He had a lot of momentum after his big 2015, but he has taken a step back in his quest to reach the UFC. Consecutive losses aren't a good sign for any fighter trying to make that next step in their professional career.

—TED GRUBER

10 FELICE HERRIG, MMA
What we said then: Herrig is in a better place mentally while still being one of the best notable females on the UFC roster. Her next fight should show "Lil Bulldog" is back to her winning ways.

VERDICT: HIT

Fighting at home in Chicago on July 23, she picked up a much-needed victory against Kailin Curran. It was a big weight lifted off her shoulders as well as an important moment for her family and friends in attendance who watched her fight through personal issues.

—TED GRUBER

11 JEREMY LANGFORD, BEARS
What we said then: 2016 will be the year Langford makes fantasy owners take notice. Figure he'll crack the 1,000-yard barrier in rushing.

VERDICT: MISS

Because of an early-season injury and the emergence of rookie Jordan Howard, Langford has been relegated to a secondary role in the Bears' offensive backfield. He's short of 200 rushing yards with two games left in the season.

—CHRIS SOSA

Overall, we batted 5-for-16 on our 2016 breakout picks for a .313 average. Which is Hall of Fame-worthy in the major leagues, but not so great in the predictions game. We'll try to do better in 2017.

CHRIS SOSA (@REDEYESPORTSCHI) IS REDEYE'S SPORTS EDITOR. TED GRUBER AND MATT LINDNER ARE REDEYE CONTRIBUTORS.

12 CHEYENNE PARKER, SKY
What we said then: Parker will have a perfect opportunity to be a force in the front-court and boost all her stats.

VERDICT: HIT

Although she played five fewer games in 2016 than in 2015, she did start seven times (she had no starts last season) and inched her stats up incrementally to 4.0 points, 3.2 rebounds and 12.6 minutes per game.

—CHRIS SOSA

13 BOBBY PORTIS, BULLS
What we said then: Many pundits have raved about Portis' skill set, and he should have ample opportunities to make an impact.

VERDICT: MISS

The second-year forward isn't getting significant playing time in the Bulls frontcourt behind Robin Lopez, Taj Gibson, Nikola Mirotic and others. The good news is he has plenty of time to find a way to nab more minutes.

—CHRIS SOSA

14 CLAYTON RICHARD, CUBS
What we said then: The Kansas City Royals have shown that a strong bullpen can take you to the promised land, and Richard figures to be a key cog in next year's Cubs' relief corps while likely getting an occasional start.

VERDICT: MISS

To borrow a line from "Home Alone," this is how I look back on this particular pick: "Buzz, your girlfriend ... WOOF!" Richard, by all accounts a very nice fellow, was awful as a Cub in 2016, going 0-1 with a 6.43 ERA in 25 appearances before being released in August.

—MATT LINDNER

15 ADDISON RUSSELL, CUBS
What we said then: He's going to be better with the bat than he was in his rookie campaign. If and when Russell puts it all together, he's going to be an integral part of many Cubs Octobers to come.

VERDICT: HIT

Russell's grand slam in the third inning of Game 6 of the World Series in Cleveland ensured there would be a Game 7. His bat wasn't nearly that loud during the regular season, but 2016 further established Russell not only as a star in the Major Leagues but also as a franchise cornerstone for years to come.

—MATT LINDNER

16 KYLE SCHWARBER, CUBS
What we said then: Sure, his defense is a bit suspect, but when you can swing a bat like he can, there are things fans can overlook.

VERDICT: HIT

Schwarber's legend continues to grow. Without him, the Cubs don't win the 2016 World Series. Generations of sports fans will tell the tales of Schwarber coming back after missing almost the entire regular season to hit .412 in the World Series, including the single to start the 10th inning of Game 7 of the World Series that, well, you know how the rest played out.

—MATT LINDNER



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'WE DON'T QUIT'

HOW THE CUBS CONQUERED CLEVELAND IN THAT FATEFUL 10TH INNING

By Chicago Tribune staff

Editor's note: This is an excerpt of a story detailing the Cubs' victory in Game 7 of the 2016 World Series, the entirety of which can be found at redychicago.com/sports.

A rain delay helped end a drought. The sky opened over downtown Cleveland that unseasonably warm Nov. 2 night, giving Cubs fans 17 long minutes to ponder their panic and question curses—a cat, a goat, a fan and a first baseman.

Mother Nature also allowed Jason Heyward to summon the longtime Lovable Losers to a weight room for a speech that will live in Cubs lore forevermore.

An inning after the Indians' Rajai Davis improbably tied Game 7 of the 2016 World Series 6-6—and tied emotions in knots—with a two-run homer off Cubs closer Aroldis Chapman, showers fell from heaven, and the fateful 10th inning would have to wait.

Both franchises were used to that, though. The Cubs hadn't won a Series since 1908. The Indians had the second-longest championship drought in baseball, their last World Series title coming in 1948.

Here is the story of the final inning of the Cubs' 8-7 triumph in Game 7, from those who lived it.

THE RAIN DELAY

How much can one team pack into a 17-minute rain delay? A lot, apparently.

Outfielder Dexter Fowler: As we came off the field and walked back through the tunnel, some guys were mad, other guys were sad, some guys were way too pumped. We were all over the place. You had grown men crying. Literally. I believe the rain delay was God telling us to calm down.

Infielder Ben Zobrist: None of the players wanted to take a break. No one wants to put a pause on anything at that moment in the game.

Manager Joe Maddon: It's crazy how things happen. ... I walk off and see them all gathering in that little room down below there and they had a meeting. And I'm upstairs checking out the weather map. ... I love when players have meetings; I hate when I do. So they had their meeting, and a big part of it was: "We don't quit."

"We don't quit."

General manager Jed Hoyer: I really feel like in some ways, that rain delay was kind of divine intervention. The game was going really fast for us at that point. ... To get that little break there, I definitely think it helped us a lot. We had the best part of our lineup coming up.

Outfielder Jason Heyward: I just had to remind everybody who we are. ... We never worry about wins or losses, we just worry about how we're going to go out there, have fun, compete, be right there for the guys next to us and not take the situation for granted.

10TH INNING

After Kyle Schwarber singled and Albert Almora Jr. came in to run for him, Indians manager Terry Francona elected to walk Anthony Rizzo intentionally. He paid for it when Zobrist poked a double down the left-field line to score Almora. Then he chanced another intentional walk to Addison

Russell, and Miguel Montero followed with an RBI single past a drawn-in infield for an 8-6 lead.

Zobrist: I was just as nervous as anyone else would be going up there. They intentionally walked [Rizzo] to get to me, so there's a part of you that your pride is a little hurt that they'd rather face you than that guy. ... I had to block out all the emotion. If you try to be the hero in that situation, it never works out.

On a 1-2 count, Zobrist finally got his pitch, a cutter from reliever Bryan Shaw.

Zobrist: I was really uncomfortable. He got me down. I was just flailing at balls, just taking an emergency hack. And then the last one was just over the plate and up enough that I could get enough of the barrel to it.

When I hit it, I think I lost consciousness. I didn't remember anything until I was jumping at second base. We felt we knew right then that we were going to win the game. It was just a matter of time to get to those last three outs.

Lost in the shuffle was Almora, whose heads-up tag at first on Bryant's flyout put him in scoring position for Zobrist.

Almora: I was just thinking of getting to second base for my teammates, for Rizzo, who was coming up behind me. It's funny, when they intentionally walked Rizzo, I thought, "I don't think that's a good idea. We have one of our best hitters coming up behind him."

Montero then provided what turned out to be the game-winning RBI.

Montero: [Shaw] threw me one too many [cutters]. I'm not going to look for anything else. If he threw me a breaking ball, he probably would strike me out because I wasn't looking for it. I

told myself to choke up, be short, because all we need is a base hit. I got it. I got my base hit.

With Chapman done, rookie right-hander Carl Edwards Jr. entered the game. He retired two Indians before walking Brandon Guyer and giving up an RBI single to Davis. Maddon then brought in left-hander Mike Montgomery.

Edwards: I was kind of upset with myself, but then there was relief because I knew the guy coming after me [Montgomery] would get the last out.

After the rain delay we were walking back to bullpen, then he goes: "Hey, bro, it's coming down to us two, man. We're going to win this game, man." And I was like, huh? And he said, "It's coming down to us two. ... I said, bro, we're going to finish this together." And we end up finishing the game off to kill this drought.

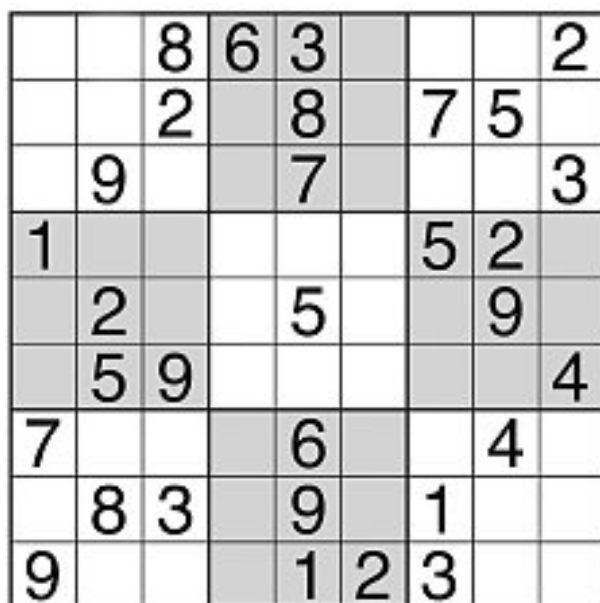
Montgomery did just that, inducing Michael Martinez's grounder to Bryant at third base.

Bryant: I knew he was fast, I knew I had to get rid of it. It's wet out here.

Montgomery: The edge started in the third inning. A couple of guys got on and I got loose. ... At that point I knew tonight was going to be kind of different. ... To be a part of that and to be able close it out for the last out, it's something I'll never forget.

Bryant headed straight for Rizzo, and the two embraced before the entire team swarmed the infield. Rizzo tucked the last-out ball into his pocket, and the celebration generations had coming finally had arrived.

SOURCES: CHICAGO TRIBUNE, THE PLAYERS' TRIBUNE, BUSINESS INSIDER, FOX SPORTS, BOSTON HERALD, TBS, MLB.COM, AKRON BEACON JOURNAL, WASHINGTON POST, GAINESVILLE SUN, USA TODAY. COMPILED BY PAUL SKRBINA, MARK GONZALES, PHIL THOMPSON, JOE KNOWLES AND TIM BANNON.



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



MONDAY'S SOLUTIONS

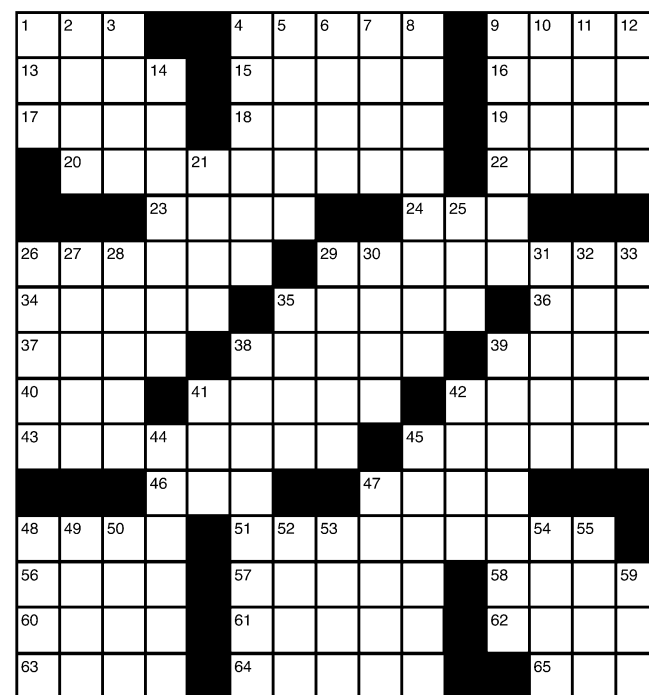


ACROSS

- 1 JFK's brother & Atty. General
- 4 Addis __, Ethiopia
- 9 Make fun of __ around; linger
- 13 Of the moon
- 16 Capable
- 17 Smell
- 18 Slightly more than a quart
- 19 __ in; bring under control
- 20 Make steady & unfluctuating
- 22 Keyboard error
- 23 Have to have
- 24 Willy
- 26 Bits of parsley
- 29 Driver
- 34 Throws in the towel
- 35 Extend one's subscription
- 36 Uncooked
- 37 Encourage
- 38 Used an oar
- 39 Actor Christian
- 40 -blond; hair color
- 41 Misplaces
- 42 Actress Davis
- 43 Point-by-point
- 45 Most rational
- 46 Become firm
- 47 Regulation
- 48 TV's __ "Trek"
- 51 Swing back & forth, as a fan
- 56 Inner __; pool toy
- 57 Bank safe
- 58 Pekoe and oolong
- 60 In the past
- 61 Hot bit of coal
- 62 Meaty concoction
- 63 Mountain route
- 64 All prepared
- 65 Bread for a Reuben

DOWN

- 1 Greek letter
- 2 Passing crazes
- 3 Shoelace problem
- 4 Friendly nations
- 5 Construct
- 6 Prefix for toxin or trust
- 7 Singer Joan
- 8 Slapped handcuffs on
- 9 One who dies for his



- 10 beliefs
- 11 Follow orders
- 12 Cut coupons
- 13 Game similar to lotto
- 14 Very hard rock
- 21 Pleads
- 25 Near the floor
- 26 __ car; black-and-white
- 27 Handbag
- 28 Correct
- 29 Cried like a cat
- 30 Singles
- 31 Angry
- 32 Seasons at the table
- 33 Bird's remark
- 35 Got up
- 38 Command to a dog who does tricks
- 39 Under
- 41 Fib
- 42 Globe; sphere
- 44 Concurs
- 45 Hot and humid
- 47 Irritated
- 48 Cease
- 49 Albacore, e.g.
- 50 Fundamentals
- 52 Identical
- 53 Havana's land
- 54 Rip
- 55 As __ as pie
- 59 That woman

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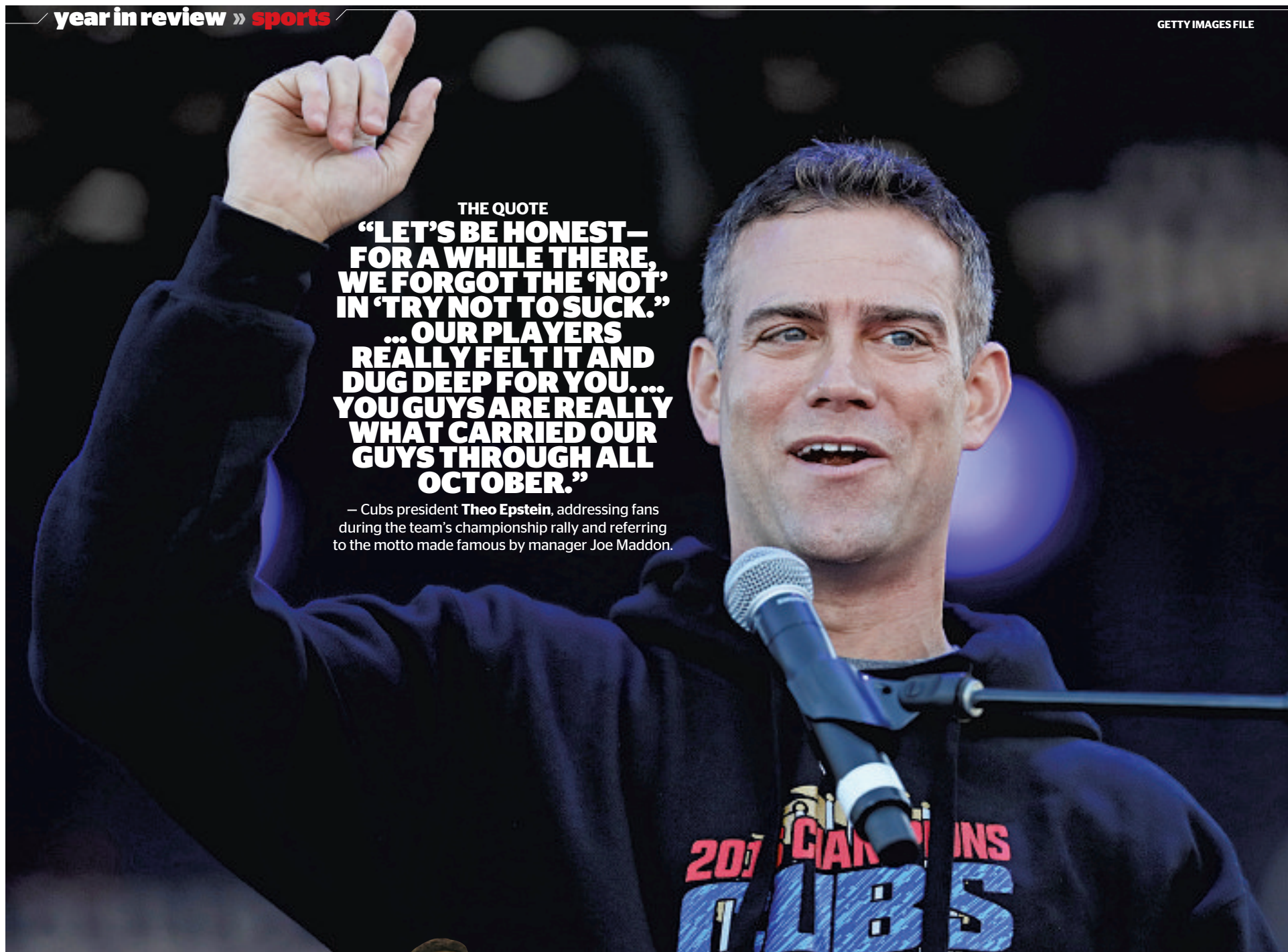
- @mikeracanelli



MUST WATCH MORNING WGN⁹ NEWS

WEEKDAYS **4-10A**

wgnmorningnews.com



THE QUOTE

**“LET’S BE HONEST—
FOR A WHILE THERE,
WE FORGOT THE ‘NOT’
IN ‘TRY NOT TO SUCK.’
... OUR PLAYERS
REALLY FELT IT AND
DUG DEEP FOR YOU...
YOU GUYS ARE REALLY
WHAT CARRIED OUR
GUYS THROUGH ALL
OCTOBER.”**

— Cubs president **Theo Epstein**, addressing fans during the team’s championship rally and referring to the motto made famous by manager Joe Maddon.

THE QUOTE

**“BEING BACK HERE, IT
FELT GOOD, TO TELL
YOU THE TRUTH.
ESPECIALLY THE
CUBS WINNING, I
FELT THE ENERGY OF
THE CITY. THE CITY
IS ON SOME TYPE OF
HIGH RIGHT NOW.
IT’S GREAT FOR THE
CITY, WITH EVERYTHING
THAT WE’VE BEEN
GOING THROUGH, THE
KILLINGS, EVERYTHING.
WE NEED SOME POSITIVE
LIGHT SHINED HERE.”**

—Former Bulls star **Derrick Rose**, on his return to his native Chicago on Nov. 4 as a member of the Knicks



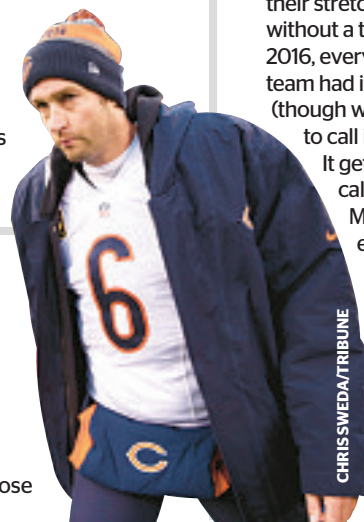
THE DIGIT

40.05M

That’s how many people watched Game 7 of the World Series between the Cubs and Cleveland, an 8-7 Cubs victory in 10 innings. According to Variety, it was the biggest Game 7 World Series audience since 1991.

**Maybe they’re on
to something?**

Since **Jay Cutler** signed a seven-year, \$126 million contract in January 2014, there have been 36 quarterbacks drafted into the NFL, including one (David Fales in 2014) selected by the Bears. Of those, nine started for an NFL team this weekend, and five of those teams were in the hunt for a playoff spot.



Your move, Bears

Even though the Cubs ended their stretch of 108 years without a title by winning in 2016, every other Chicago team had its drought extended (though we know it’s a stretch to call it that for the Hawks).

It gets worse for the so-called Monsters of the Midway, who haven’t even been to the playoffs since the 2010 season. The only team that has had a longer absence from the postseason (as of right now) is the Sox, who last reached the playoffs in 2008.

Blackhawks

1 YEAR
(last title in 2015)

Red Stars

3 YEARS
(joined NWSL in 2013)

Sky

10 YEARS
(joined WNBA in 2006)

White Sox

11 YEARS
(2005)

Fire

18 YEARS
(1998)

Bulls

18 YEARS
(1998)

Bears

31 YEARS
(1985)